

REMARKS

The Office Action of January 6, 2006 has been received and its contents carefully considered.

The present Amendment places claims 7 and 18 in independent form, and cancels the claims from which they formerly depended (that is, claims 1 and 6 for claim 7, and claims 12 and 17 for claim 18). Modifications have been made in the claim language imported into claims 7 and 18 to improve the form of these claims under U.S. claim-drafting practice. The present Amendment also revises most of the remaining claims to improve their form and to conform them to the new independent claims. In addition, the present Amendment adds a new independent claim 23 to further protect the invention.

Turning first to section 2 of the Office Action, it is respectfully submitted that the above-noted claim amendments have rendered claims 11 and 22 suitably definite under the second paragraph of 35 USC 112.

Sections 4-16 of the Office Action reject all of the claims for anticipation by U.S. patent 5,898,836 to Freivald et al. This reference will hereafter be called simply “Freivald” for the sake of convenience. For the reasons discussed below, it is respectfully submitted that the inventions defined by independent claims 7, 18, and 23 are patentable over this reference.

Claim 7 provides that a notification-receiver’s address holding means “further has means for holding at least one keyword with respect to the address of the user terminal,” that a differential information piece represents differences between old and new web page data, and that an updated data extracting means “has means for removing [the] differential information piece from the updated data when the differential information piece does not include the held keyword.” In other words, if updated data from a website does not include a

keyword with respect to the address of the user terminal, the differential information piece is removed from updated data that has been extracted from a website. The update notification device of claim 7 thus sends the user terminal a notification message about a website's updated data when a keyword is extracted after a change.

It is respectfully submitted that the Freivald reference neither discloses nor suggests an updated data extracting means that looks for keywords in accordance with claim 7. Similarly, independent claim 18 recites that "the updated data extracting step has a step for removing a differential information piece from the updated data when the differential information piece does not include the held keyword," so claim 18 is also patentable over Freivald. New independent claim 23 recites "notifying the user that the website has been updated if the differences include the keyword," so claim 23 is likewise patentable over the reference.

The remaining claims depend from the independent claims discussed above and recite additional limitations to further define the invention, so they are patentable along with the independent claims and need not be further discussed. Nevertheless, several dependent claims will now be briefly addressed.

Claim 8 provides that "the updated data extracting means has means for compiling a rank, which indicates a degree-of-attention of the web page, in accordance with the frequency of occurrence of updated data having a keyword corresponding to each user terminal." Claim 19 is similar, but in the form of a method step. In contrast, the Freivald reference only discloses that the ranks of changed pages are based on the percentage of sections with mismatched CRCs.

Claim 9 provides that a notification message is created in accordance with a predetermined template, and claim 20 is similar. The use of templates permits highly-

readable notification messages to be created. In claims 10 and 21, a title for a notification message is created from updated data. Claims 11 and 22 provide a notification message issue number. It is respectfully submitted that the Freivald reference would not have led an ordinarily skilled person to these features, since Freivald relies principally on the percentage of sections that are changed.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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